REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 5-32 are pending in this application, however, claims 5-14 and 19-26 are withdrawn from consideration due to a restriction requirement. Thus, claims 1, 2, 15-18 and 27-32 are presently under consideration. Claims 1, 15, 29 and 31 are independent claims. By this preliminary amendment, claim 15 is amended to correct an antecedent basis error.

Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly solicited.
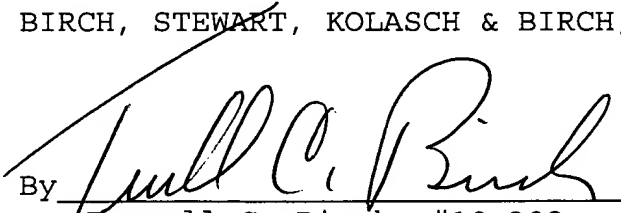
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Carolyn T. Baumgardner (Reg. 41,345) at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By _____
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0033-0630P

TCB/CTB/mpe

Attachment: Version with Markings to show Changes Made

(Rev. 12/19/01)

3

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Claim 15 is amended as follows:

15. (Four Times Amended) An image retrieving apparatus, comprising:

an index information generating unit for receiving a frame feature value which is numerical information representing quantity of a feature contained in a frame of image data, for determining a featured frame among said image data based on said frame feature value in accordance with a request for extracting a featured frame, and for generating index information which is positional information of said featured frame,

wherein said frame feature value is calculated by said image data including associated data for transporting, storing or coding the image, and is not a component of said image data; and

a image retrieval executing unit connected to said index information generating unit, for transmitting said request for extracting said featured frame to said index information generating unit, for receiving said index information from said index information generating unit, for receiving said image data from an external source, and for outputting a frame specified based on said index information,

wherein said index information is adaptively changed by changing a setting of a threshold value during the process of retrieval.